

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 30. (cancelled)

31. (original) A method of coating an optically readable data carrier, including the steps of:

applying a transparent adhesive film to a data carrier surface that is to be protected, and subsequently applying a covering film to said adhesive film.

32. (original) A method according to claim 31, wherein said adhesive film is a layer of adhesive without carrier material.

33. (original) A method according to claim 31, wherein said covering film is a PC tape.

34. (currently amended) A method according to claim 31, which includes the step of withdrawing at least one of said adhesive film and said covering film from a carrier film during or after application of said adhesive film and said covering film, respectively, to said data carrier surface.

35. (original) A method according to claim 31, which includes the step of withdrawing a protective film from at least one of said adhesive film and said covering film prior to application of said adhesive film to said data carrier surface.

36. (original) A method according to claim 31, wherein a shape and size of at least one of said adhesive film and said covering film corresponds to said data carrier surface.

37. (original) A method according to claim 36, wherein sections of at least one of said adhesive film and said covering film that correspond to a shape and size of said data carrier surface are punched onto a carrier film.

38. (original) A method according to claim 31, wherein at least one of said adhesive film and said covering film is applied to said data carrier surface in a centered manner.

39. (original) A method according to claim 38, wherein said adhesive film and said data carrier surface are aligned with one another prior to said applying step.

40. (original) A method according to claim 31, wherein during said applying step at least one of said adhesive film and said covering film is pressed against said data carrier surface via a rotating pressure roller.

41. (original) A method according to claim 40, which includes the step of controlling a pressure of said pressure roller.

42. (original) A method according to claim 40, wherein prior to being pressed by said pressure roller, at least one of said adhesive film and said covering film is held at a pre-specified angle relative to said data carrier surface.

43. (original) A method according to claim 40, wherein said pressure roller and said data carrier surface are moved relative to one another.

44. (original) A method according to claim 43, wherein said data carrier surface is moved linearly past said pressure roller.

45. (currently amended) A method according to claim 43, wherein said pressure roller is rotated synchronously ~~to~~ with a relative movement of said data carrier surface.

46. (original) A method according to claim 31, wherein said adhesive film is an adhesive film that responds to pressure, and wherein the adhesion characteristics of said adhesive film vary as a function of pressure.

47. (withdrawn) An apparatus for coating an optically readable data carrier, comprising:

a first laminating station for applying a transparent adhesive film to a data carrier surface that is to be protected, and

a second laminating station for applying a transparent covering film to said adhesive film.

48. (withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 47, wherein a shape and size of at least one of said adhesive film and said covering film correspond to said data carrier surface.

49. (withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 47, wherein sections of at least one of said adhesive film and said covering film that correspond to a shape and size of said data carrier surface are punched onto a carrier film.

50. (withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 47, wherein at least one of said laminating stations is provided with an aligning unit for aligning said adhesive film with said data carrier surface.

51. (withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 47, wherein at least one of said laminating stations is provided with a rotatable pressure roller.

52. (withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 51, wherein at least one of said laminating stations is provided with a device for moving at least one of said pressure roller and said data carrier surface.

53. (withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 52, wherein said device is provided with at least one linear movement unit for said data carrier surface.

54. (withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 47, which includes a device for withdrawing a protective film from at least one of said adhesive film and said covering film.

55. (withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 47, wherein said adhesive film is a layer of adhesive without carrier material.

56. (withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 47, wherein said covering film is a PC tape.

57. (withdrawn) An optically readable data carrier having a data-carrying surface and comprising:

a transparent adhesive film and a transparent covering film that cover said data-carrying surface.

58. (withdrawn) A data carrier according to claim 57, wherein said adhesive film is a layer of adhesive without carrier material.

59. (withdrawn) A data carrier according to claim 57, wherein said covering film is a PC tape.

60. (withdrawn) A data carrier according to claim 57, which includes a protective housing, and wherein said data carrier is disposed in said protective housing.

61. (new) A method according to claim 31, wherein said step of

applying a transparent adhesive film to a data carrier surface that is to be protected includes positioning a preformed layer of transparent adhesive film relative to the data carrier surface that is to be protected and, after the step of positioning a preformed layer of transparent adhesive film relative to the data carrier surface, applying a force relative to at least one of the preformed layer of transparent adhesive film and the data carrier surface to cause compression in the direction toward the data carrier surface of at least that much of the preformed layer of transparent adhesive film that has already been positioned relative to the data carrier surface and wherein no additional transparent adhesive material beyond the preformed layer of transparent adhesive film is applied to the data carrier surface before the step of subsequently applying a covering film to said adhesive film.